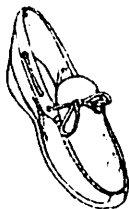
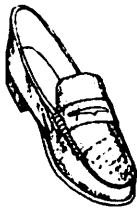
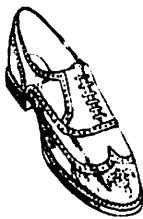
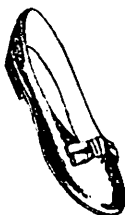
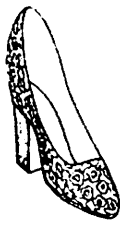
SHOE is an outer covering for the foot. Shoes have a sole, and most shoes also have a heel. The upper part of most shoes extends no higher than the ankle. Boots are footwear that reach beyond the ankle. People wear shoes to protect their feet from cold weather, sharp objects, and uncomfortable surfaces.

Shoes are also an important part of people's clothing. As a result, fashion often determines the style of shoes that individuals wear. The desire of men and women to be fashionable has led to many unusual shoe styles. For example, many European men of the 1300's wore shoes called *crackowes*, which had an extremely long toe. Some crackowes had a toe so long that it had to be fastened to the knee with a chain to prevent the wearer from tripping. Some European women of the 1600's wore shoes with soles so thick that walking was impossible without support. Shoes once worn in the Orient

WORLD BOOK illustrations by David Cunningham

Casual Shoes and Dress Shoes are manufactured in a variety of styles. Most of these kinds of footwear are made of leather, but other materials may also be used.